

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 4 is cancelled, claims 1 and 5 are amended, and new claims 6 and 7 are added. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 5 and new claims 6 and 7 can be found, for example, in original claims 1-5. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action by presenting the subject matter of allowable dependent claims in independent claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 4 and 5 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 4, and claim 5 is amended to be independent by incorporating the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, claims 1 and 5 and their dependent claims (all claims in the application) are in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102/§103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), over U.S. Patent No. 3,846,453 to Erneta ("Erneta"). By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 4, rendering claim 1 allowable over Erneta. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and, thus, are also

allowable over Erneta. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

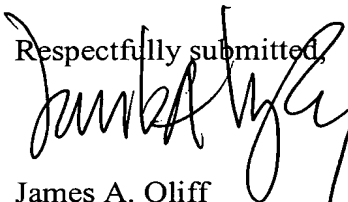
New Claims

By this Amendment, new claims 6 and 7 are added. New claims 6 and 7 depend from allowable claim 5 and, thus, are also allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3 and 5-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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